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ABSTRACT

Intended for use by reading researchers and specialists, this collection of abstracts provides details of research studies on reading and library use conducted in Hungary from 1960 to 1977. The 25 studies cover a variety of topics, including the following: readers' interests and library use habits, rural population and the library, changes in literary interests in the 1960s, reading and book acquiring habits of secondary school and university students, changes in library use habits in light of changes in information needs, the social environment of a public library, reading and intelligence, and problems of social science literature in public libraries. (FL)

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READING RESEARCH IN HUNGARY
(1960-1977)

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BARTOS Éva

I.2.c
I.2.d
I.2.e
I.3.a
I.3.d

Az ízlésformálás lehetőségei

Chances to form taste

The 1971-72 social-psychological-pedagogical investigation conducted in the circle of library users with an interest in, and attraction to, works of primarily low aesthetical value is to be repeated during a 3-year period. Using the data of the previous research, the modified program of the investigation helps to analyze the confrontation between valuable works and readers who prefer books of primarily low aesthetical quality. The survey is to reinforce the theoretical basis for the work of librarians.

The experiment is being carried out in 15 basic libraries and covers 150-200 readers. The fact that short stories besides novels are also included in the experimental readings is a new feature. The 15 short stories constitute the subject of the research "Changes in the values and ideals in post-liberation Hungarian literature", directed by the Institute of Library Science of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, thus it forms the basis of a mutual research.

The research report on the experiment is likely to be prepared in 1979.

I.2.e
I.3.d

BARTOS Éva

Az olvasói érdeklődés és a könyvtárhasználati szokások vizsgálata a közművelődési könyvtárakban

An examination of the readers' interest and the habits of library use

The series of surveys is a sociological, psychological and pedagogical examination of the expectations set by library users towards the library, of the ways and habits of library use, of the behaviour of library users, of the connection between librarians and readers. The primary aim of the survey is to assist reading service.

First the questionnaire survey informs about the general trends in the interest of library users. In 1977 two country libraries /County and Municipal Libraries, Miskolc/ and a Budapest library are going to be examined from the viewpoint of the degree of the readers' interest in special subjects. This is to be followed by a survey of the motives and characteristics dominant in their interest. The questionnaire survey will be completed by interviews between librarians and readers, in the course of which we shall attempt to establish the problems of how to verbalize interest.

The method of interviews will be used to gather data on the habits in selecting reading material, on the precedents and motives of a special choice.

Some 1,000 readers will be questioned during the investigation. The research is expected to end at the end of 1978.

I.2.d
I.3.a
I.3.c

DURKÓ Mátyás

A szépirodalmi müvek recepciójának szintje és fő tipusai felnőtteknél. Közread. a Kossuth Lajos Tudományegyetem, Debrecen. 1974. 77. p.

The level of reception of fiction and its main types among adults

The author investigated, by questionnaires, from 1967 to 1970, two short stories of two Hungarian writers among 174 adult readers; the sample was taken in respect of sex, age, and school qualification of the inquired persons. He determined the 100 per cent result on the basis of replies answered by experts and compared the investigated persons' replies with it. He differentiated five quantitative levels and within them altogether nine qualitative types of reception.

I. Unacceptable reception /0-20 per cent result/. - Type 1: the reader is not inclined to read through the book; type 2: the reader makes elementary mistakes in the comprehension of the text.

II. Weak reception /21-30 per cent/. - Type 3: the reader simplifies what the writer has to say; type 4: the reader distorts the meaning of the work /he identifies himself with the opinion of that character who does not represent the writer's attitude, or projects his own life's problems into the work etc./

III. Moderate reception /31-60 per cent/. - Type 5: the reader understands the plot of the work but cannot assess it; type 6: the reader stresses with prejudice some problems, propositions that personally affect him; type 7: he gives a "prestige" reply, i. e. he does not express his opinion but adopts such ethical, political, aesthetical etc. propositions on the work which he feels to be impressive.

IV. Good reception /61-80 per cent/. - Type 8: the reader practically analyses and assesses the content correctly.

4 a

V. Excellent repcetion /81-100 per cent/. - Type 9: the reader evaluates the work completely in the context of content and form.

The quality of reception depends in the first place on the development of four factors: These are: 1. the person's power of thinking; 2. the comprehension of everyday's linguistic and artistic system of symbols; 3. the person's personality, inflexibility , or adaptability of his nervous system; and 4. the person's attitude to the work, its function in the person's life.

Quantitative results of the investigation are rather poor. The proportion of reception levels are: unacceptable 13, weak 16, moderate 57, good 13 and excellent 1 per cent /results of the reception as regards the two works slightly deviate from each other/. - In the younger age groups, however, the proportion of secondary school qualification is higher and here the results of reception are generally better. Since in our society the proportion of those qualifying for secondary school education increases more and more, it may be presumed that the average level of reception of literary works will also develop.

This process of improvement may give impetus to methodically developing the readers' taste in libraries and cultural clubs.

GEREBEN Ferenc
Falusi lakosok és a könyvtár.
Egy felmérés tanulságaiból. =
Könyvtári Figyelő. 20. évf. 1974.
1. no. 5-20. p.

Rural population and the library.
Experiences of an investigation.

The Market Research Group of the Association of Hungarian Publishers and Distributors gives an account of the results of the educational-sociological investigation carried out in 1974 in the library field.

In 23 villages, small and large, 3,177 persons, a sample from 1,000 families, over 10, were questioned individually.

The objective of the investigation was to get an overall picture of book and reading culture in the present-day Hungarian village.

Questionnaires related to families, and within this the replies of each family member were given in detail.

The investigation answers the following questions:

1. Library membership - reading culture

30 per cent of the surveyed population is member in some sort of libraries. As opposed to this average, 59 per cent of regular readers, 34 per cent of occasional readers, and 12 per cent of those reading very rarely were library members. Further on the taste level of reading is dealt with.

2. Library membership - collecting of books

The resulting data prove that library use and book purchase are parallel occurrences. There was at least one library member in 38 per cent of the families that do not buy books at all, in 62 per cent of families that buy books for 100 to 200 Forints, and in 73 per cent who buy books for 201 to 500 Forints and 81 per cent who buy books for more than 500 Forints.

3. Who are the library members?

The visited library types, the number of visitors are dealt with in detail. The following tables offer many-sided replies to the questions raised:

- professional categories;
- professional composition of families;
- educational level;
- age group.

4. Since when has he/she been a library member?

The period of library membership - in the case of 940 library members - worked out as follows:

less than 1 year	5,4 per cent
1-2 years	6,9 per cent
2-5 years	29,0 per cent
5-10 years	35,3 per cent
over 10 years	18,4 per cent
no answer	5,0 per cent

5. Effectiveness of books borrowed from the library within the family

In two thirds of the questioned families the borrowed books are read by non library members too. Reading habits are dealt with for each age group.

6. Utilization of library services

The utilization of information services offered by the library increased in direct proportion with the frequency of reading.

The study well illustrates the treated material by tables.

I.2.a
I.3.a
I.3.c

GEREBEN Ferenc

A hatvanas évek ízlésállapota, az irodalmi érdeklődés változásai

The state of taste and changes in literary interest in the 1960s

The research carried out by the Association of Hungarian Book Publishers and Distributors is primarily based on a 1968 questionnaire survey. The 1,000 persons questioned in the bookshops of the capital and four country towns adequately represent the urban bookshop customers - a stratum whose connection to books is well above the average.

The principal objective of the research was to document and analyze the most significant changes readers' /at least frequent readers/ literary interests and taste underwent in Hungary in the 1960s. Special attention was paid to the role of contemporary Hungarian literature within the readers' interests.

Three publications complement the main findings of the research.

1. Ferenc GEREBEN: Contemporary Hungarian literature and the readers. The Book. 1970/3. pp. 36-51.
   The study dwells on the extent of attraction to special types of reading in different social strata. Based on the analysis of the composition of current readings and by comparing the popularity lists from the beginning and the end of the decade, the author concludes that reading interests shifted from classical to contemporary literature /primarily to its superficial, less valuable range/ by the end of the 1960s. The investigation has revealed that interest sharply differs in the case of ol and modern literature as well as in the case of foreign and Hungarian works.

6 8

2. Ferenc GEREBEN: Taste of the strata, strata of taste. In: Taste and Culture. Budapest, Kossuth. 1974. pp. 374-399.
The study draws the profiles of the reading taste of the major strata /workers, peasants, intellectuals, employees/, based on the data analyses of the mentioned survey and other investigations /primarily on an investigation of reading covering 1,000 rural families, conducted by the Association of Hungarian Book Publishers and Distributors in 1971./ It demonstrates the change in the taste of the special strata since the beginning of the decade; furthermore, it endeavours to delineate certain reading types and to examine their connection to special value orientations.

3. Ferenc GEREBEN: To the question of the inner structure of literary taste. Culture and Community. 1974/2. pp. 75-88.
Further elaborating the data of the above-mentioned basic research, the publication focuses on the inner structure of literary taste, and on the homogeneity or heterogeneity of the constituents. It studies how various favourite authors and types of fiction attract and repel each other in the comprehending mind. It attempts to reveal the basis for forming these connections.
Since the links within attraction can be illustrated as an uninterrupted network, the study draws theoretical and methodological conclusions relating to the chance of developing literary taste and to the ways of this development.

I.2.d
I.3.a
I.3.c

GERÉBEN Ferenc
Az irodalmi ízlés belső szerveződésének kérdéséhez. = Kultura és Közösség. 1974. 2. no. 75–88.p.

On the problem of the inherent organization of literary taste

In autumn, 1968, 1,002 persons shopping in bookshops were interviewed by using previously prepared questionnaires; they were asked about their reading habits and, among others, about their favourite writers. The calculation of the associative coefficient was carried out in processing the replies received. The fundamental question of the investigation was aimed at information concerning the inherent structure of literary taste which became objective in the selection and rejections, in forming the judgement of value and the character of the internal laws of selecting pieces of reading.

The interviewed persons named generally 2 to 3 writers as their favourite authors; the probability of the joint occurrence of these names - the attraction and rejections - and their rate were operated mathematically calculating the coefficient falling between +1 and -1 values. By means of the connection of various strength a system of relations as regards the aesthetical values, marked by the creators' names, may be drawn up. Generally, it can be laid down that the approximate identity of the aesthetical value plays the most important role and the relationship of the style beyond temporality in the background of attractiveness.

The character, as regards the system of relations, changes considerably depending on the sociological, demographical features of the interviewed persons; this means that different systems of preferences and networks of attractiveness are characteristic of each social stratum. Structure constitutes an unbroken chain in the spectrum running from light reading to the most valuable literature, but naturally there are several grade.

The most important results of the investigation show that the levels of value in the readers' consciousness are not kept apart strictly from each other, and thus the improvement of taste and the recommending activity

for books have reasonable chances. On the other hand, the elements of a relative interruption are observable too: a closer connection of books representing aesthetical value and their separation of books of inferior value.

I.2.a
I.2.e

GEREBEN Ferenc

A középiskolás fiatalok és a könyv. /Felmérés három középiskolában és egy közművelődési könyvtárban./Bp. Magyar Könyvkiadók és Könyvterjesztők Egyesülése. 1968. 78 p.

Secondary school students and the book

The research of the Information Centre of Hungarian Book Publishers and Distributors had two objectives: firstly, it attempted to gather significant information on the reading and book acquiring habits of secondary students, secondly, it examined how leaving the secondary school might bring about changes in these habits.

The research is based on a 1967 questionnaire survey. The survey covered 630 students /partly registered, partly graduated three years earlier/ of three Budapest secondary schools /a downtown, a suburban, and a specialized secondary school/. The phenomena of newspaper reading, the quantitative and content features of book reading, favoured reading types and authors, book purchase, home libraries and the question of library membership formed the scope of the survey.

A special section describes the "reading history" of the young people, i. e. the date of their starting reading, the changes in their reading interests in the course of time /primarily after graduation/.

Almost all of the questioned were book readers. The characteristic features of post-graduate years are the following: the differences in the reading frequency of special groups /downtown and suburban youth, grammar school and specialized secondary school students, boys and girls etc./ diminish; the qualitative level of reading slightly increases; book purchase extends; dropping out from libraries becomes extensive; enrolling in specialized libraries instead of public libraries grows.

The connection between secondary students and books is determined by the fact of their being secondary school students. /The latter, in turn, is determined by special factors like social position/. The study concludes that post-graduate changes being positive or negativeis basically subject to schoolyear activities.

I.2.d
I.3.c

GONDOS Ernő

Izléstipusok a magyar olvasók körében. = Valóság. 15. évf. 1972. 7. sz. 60-71. p.

Types of taste among Hungarian readers

The problem of taste and general taste is a basic phenomenon, but sociological research in that line has only recently carried out comprehensive investigation. As a matter of fact, the concept of taste can be outlined only dimly. One of the decisive reasons for this fact is that taste can be observed only through its manifestations and even so with difficulty.

The author's purpose is to investigate tastes in relation to reading fiction and in connection with selecting books of fiction. This study sets itself the aim to define and analyse one very important part, i. e. the emerging types within taste. For this purpose, a list is used, consisting of 335 works; on the list 2,688 persons indicated the books read or rather the works liked best. On the basis of the joint occurrence of preferred books the relation to each other by twos was determin-

able /linkage, opposition, etc./ These relations formed the source for determining types; the works linked together "traced out" the core of the important, original types. Altogether, 14 types were distinguished and readers, belonging to one type, formed rather homogenous groups considering school education, sex, age, etc.

The types formed and analysed are, of course, not absolute. Characteristic in the overwhelming majority of readers is the fondness for works belonging to more than one type, but not always on the same level. The author successfully made one of this relationship between works when analysing relations between the types evolved.

Results of the study - and this is true for almost every first trial - are hardly to be considered final. The developed types stand in need of verification and presumably of modification, too. Their expansion raises further problems, not only for sociologists, but for those who are engaged in studying the theory of literature, too!

I.2.d
I.3.a
I.3.c

GONDOS Ernő
Olvasói izléstipusok. /Szerk. Kamarás István/. Budapest, Kossuth. 1975. 161 p.

Taste types of readers

The author tries to determine, on the basis of empirical researches, the presently predominant taste types of readers in Hungary's society. 2,700 readers representing all types of Hungarian library visitors were questioned. They expressed their views about 335 works included in a book list with questions like: did you read them, and if so, did you enjoy them? On the basis of the questionnaires, in the case of each preferred work, reference was also made to other books the same reader had enjoyed. /E.g. those who enjoyed Dostoievski's Crime and Punishment liked also the works of Tolstoy, Balzac, Thomas Mann and Ilf-Petrov to a high degree/. Applying this method, the investigation demonstrated the "cohesion" of literary works, the "degree of relationship" between works and readers' consciousness. At the same time, the investigation proved the contrary of it too: the "repulsion" of works, i. e. the works that the friends of certain works consequently rejected. /E. g. those who enjoyed Cronin's novels rejected the works of Updike, Golding, Langfus, Semprun, Sartre, and Babel./

The method of investigation, in addition to analyzing certain works, made possible, by means of calculation, the exploration of the readers' "taste forms" too. In determining the taste types, the preconceptions of researchers were deliberately left out, and the starting point derived exclusively from the actual and real display of readers. The "cohesion" of works and the index representing its strong points, constitutes the basis of the procedure. The relationship, "the "points of junction", proved by computer, was sought among them. 14 such occurrences are distinguished. Works belonging to certain groups are characterized and named afterward on the basis of their common characteristics. The groups are as follows: 1. Hungarian romanticism

/characteristic author: Mór Jókai/; 2. Works with plenty of action /Conan Doyle, Karl May, Jules Verne, Agatha Christie/. 3. Modern bestsellers, type "A" /novels of manners with less literary value/; 4. Analytical prose /valuable contemporary literature, for the most part Hungarian authors; characteristic author: László Passuth/: 5. Women's destiny /Maupassant, Th. Hardy etc./; 6. Modern bestsellers, type "B" /Work of easy genre, love-centred/; 7. Demand for knowledge /non-fiction/; 8. French taste /World literature following World War II, especially Camus, Beauvoir, Sartre/; 9. Earlier bestsellers /Cronin, Mitchell, Aldrich/; 10. Realistic-socialist /only works of traditional form belong to this socialist literature: Gorky, Makarenko, Sholokhov/; 11. Anglo-Saxon-Russian /in the first place classics of the 20th century American novels/; 12. Classical juvenile literature /Cervantes, Defoe, Mark Twain/; 13. Recent Hungarian literature /socialist idealism, people's background/; 14. Classics of the 20th century /characteristic: Thomas Mann/. The order of specification represents the gradually decreasing number of readers.

The taste types above do not stand isolated; there a connection of various strength between them. The strongest connection is between "Hungarian romanticism" and "Analytical prose"; at the same time they are linked with other taste types too, therefore they can be considered as the pivot of Hungarian general taste.

"Hungarian romanticism" /the designation is not exact, in reality rather the more traditional branch of Hungarian prose literature is concerned/ is connected with taste groups of lighter genre too: with earlier bestsellers, modern bestsellers and literature with plenty of action. "Analytical prose" on the contrary /prose literature written with modern literary instruments, socially committall/ is related to more valuable taste groups: "French taste", "Recent Hungarian" and "20th century classical" literature. At the same time, the last three types are closely connected with one another. On the contrary, the types "Demand for knowledge", "War bestsellers" and the traditional "Realistic-socialist" stand isolated and hardly linked with other taste strata; this is why these taste types, although not rare, are still confined to the periphery.

I.2.e

HALÁSZ Béla - KATSÁNYI Sándor:
A könyvtárhasználati szokások változásai. Az információ iránti igényváltozások tükrében. = Könyvtártudományi Tanulmányok 1970. 1971. 3. köt. 443-476. p.

Changes in the habits of library use in the light of changes in information needs.

The aim of th paper is to assess the rate of growth in gaining ground of a/professional literature against fiction, b/ periodical and other forms of documents against books, c/ use of reading-rooms against borrowing.

Borrowing, where qualitative indices can be best applied to the measurement of library work, reveals the continued growth in the number of technical books and this growth is accelerated by the expansion of urbanization. The library is gradually transformed into a centre of information and the role played by periodicals is considerably increased even in public libraries. This starts the question of periodical supply and here the situation is not favourable in every field, particularly in the case of periodicals in foreign languages and

the use of the material covered by them. To meet the differentiation and increased intensity of needs, public libraries must elaborate their own methods of processing.

The paper investigates the relationship between the use of reading-rooms, and borrowing, from the point of time spent in the library, illustrating this problem with statistical data and reviewing motives for using the reading-rooms.

The changes had influenced even the contents of information needs: the investigation was begun with the survey of the people requiring information, that is, groups that play important roles in social, economic, political and cultural life, managers, experts in production, educators: different strata of the intelligentsia and those who participate in organized education.

Having reviewed the nature of the representatives of the professions /how they use libraries and how their needs will change in the future/, the paper investigates the other side of the question, the motives of the needs. The cases can be grouped as follows: a/ general quick reference in practical and cultural questions, b/ search

for artistic experiences, c/ information on public life and politics, d/ training and self-education, e/ professional orientation, f/ needs connected with local knowledge.

To sum up, the paper analyzes the experiences and the aims to be achieved. Distinction must be made between different libraries in order of importance and the system of information must be extended in large special libraries on a vertical basis. The staff engaged in offering information must be increased and in the development of stock, attention must be paid to the acquisition of foreign handbooks, the number of periodicals and the modernization of the processing of stock. This necessitates the supervision of standards in relation to libraries and their realization in practice as well as the development of technical equipment /duplicators, data processing, teletypewriters etc./

I.2.d
I.3.a
I.3.c

HALÁSZ László

Adalékok a műértékelő tevékenység pszichológiai kutatásához. Budapest, 1972. Akadémiai Kiadó. 155 p.

Data to the psychological research of judging literary works.

The "comprehensive-introductory" chapters, dealing partly philosophically with the general expositions on abstract-problems of value and appraisal, and partly - much too positively - with experimental experiences, prove that outside factors influencing evaluative activities have to be considered.

General psychology has long been aware of the fact that expectations, prejudices and attitudes of investigated individuals modify the results of perception considerably even with the simple objects. This is even more true for such complex phenomena as art compositions, where mostly external factors constitute the objective basis of comparison. That is to say, the evaluation of art compositions is strongly influenced by the experts' opinion, the artist's authority and prestige.

This came to light from some simple experiments where the artist's name was used only to test the investigated persons. The names of well-known artists induced non-professional art experts to recognize non-existing values, while the name of an unknown author made them deny real values.

With full knowledge of such premises, the author tries with his own investigations, to explore art experts' strategies. In his opinion, two characteristical methods of approach may be distinguished /the task was to assess poems/: a/ A great number of persons only endeavour to understand the emotional effects and are meanwhile apt to disregard the immanent values of the work; b/ Those individuals who want to understand the ingenuity, the meaning and characteristics of the work, follow the right road.

This latter attitude, ready for analysis, is obviously missing from the snobbish behaviour based on copying of cultural élites - without any internal experience or awareness; while the drawbacks of such an attitude are evident, even that attitude may have a positive, "bridge-like" function. The artist's prestige and great

authority may help orientation, selection to a degree that the yet undetermined analysis of a valuable work would help develop the future ability for genuine artistic pleasure and for forming trustworthy evaluation by realizing the specific quantities of a work.

In a further experiment Halász tried to clear the particularity of artistic pleasure, comparing the effects of artistic and non-artistic works. 400 secondary pupils - before their final examination - had to read one part of a Faulkner novel and one poem written by the famous Hungarian poet, Mihály Váczi, i. e. an inartistic, reshaped, simplified version of these works.

16-20 days before these experimental texts were read, the pupils, selected to take part in the test, filled in the BOGARDUS scale applied in measuring social gaps by means of which the level of prejudices towards Negroes could be determined /Váczi's poem also deals with the humiliating position of Negroes./

The above works, having been read, the evaluation of the authors and their works took place, applying the OSGOOD's semantic differential; the BOGARDUS scale was filled in again. further on. the investigated persons

were requested to give their opinion in connection with the artistic value of the read works freely. Significance and correlation measurements were then carried out with the data obtained which revealed that racial prejudices have, in general, decreased, but the rejection of Negroes and a relative distance remained unchanged; the original works and the excerpts where the author's name was indicated were, in general, preferred to the simplified versions or to those passages where the author's name was not indicated.

Analysing the structure of judgements, on the values of written tests, it was proved that between the favourable response to the theme and general impressions, medium strong correlations would be established, whil between artistic means and g ·l impressions these correlations were explicitly strong; a simultaneous positive reception of the theme and artistic means are, in general, not characteristic.

After all, this experiment failed to obtain a grasp on the objective sought, i. e. the surplus of artistic product, its psychic representation. With this knowledge, however, it seems justified - at least hypothe-

tically - to be in search of the par excellence, complete experience of artistic composition and specific experience and seek them in the so-called "Gestalt-formation", in the whole quality and in the integration of the elements of the experience.

HALÁSZ László: Irodalompszichológiai vizsgálatok. Budapest, Tankönyvkiadó, 1971. 286 p. 20 cm.

Literary psychological investigations.

I.2.d
I.3.a
I.3.c

Abilities derive from hereditary qualities, but their development - like that of talent - is related to activity.

Alienation becomes manifest also in the historical development of talent: creative talent - no longer attached to productivity in the common sense of the word - has become specialized within itself.

Creative talent is characterized by highly susceptible perceptional faculty, by an immense range of expression, by an exceptional power of self-awareness and self-expression.

The specific quality of creative talent in writing was tested by the author. The testees had to select a topic from a variety of pictures and make a composition on their chosen topic. Ten minutes were given for this task. The group of testees consisted of professional writers, professional artists in some branch of the fine

arts and of individuals coming from similar intellectual spheres. As a result of the tests it has been concluded that the main characteristics of a writer's talent become manifest much rather in his aptitude to look for and select topics and in his power of description and imagery than in the exuberance of his vocabulary or in a ready verbal expressiveness.

The test was carried out by investigating the originality of a writer's personality on the example of the Hungarian writer: Frigyes KARINTHY. The two most characteristic traits of his writings, his predominant irony and talent for parody had already become manifest in his earliest attempt, in his childhood diary, written at the age of ten.

Other characteristic features appear in the exuberance of his formalistic associations and his penchant for quibbles; all his writings bear the mark of excessive intellectualism with little use for sensory elements.

Inspiration constitutes the decisive moment in the process of creativity, in the maturing of experimental elements. It is a state similar to shamanistic ecstasy

- an experience not without conscious elements - which may be best studied by using the state produced by narcotics, hypnosis or self-hypnosis as test-models.

Inspiration emerges from the fine balance reached between the activities of the conscious and the subconscious mind, in which the mentally elaborated contents of factual experience become manifest under the control of the conscious social self.

The direct influence of psychology may be easily traced in modern literature; since Proust, modern fiction has made good use of the results of psychoanalysis and the Bergsonian concept of time.

The tests covered also some other aspects of literature, i. e. the reader's response to literary work. While testees were reading aloud some piece of poetry, the physical tensions becoming manifest in their psychogalvanic skin reflexes were measured; following it, the testees had to express their opinion about the read test-item. The tests have led to the conclusion that: correlation exists between the educational level and the poetical evaluation of the reader; with the exception of the simple forms of appreciation and none at all

with verbal responses; tension dwindles with second reading; only moods have been produced instead of emotions; the mood of compassion for the unknown literary heroes, the mood evoked in the reader to identify himself with their sorrows may be assessed as an emotionally positive experience - the "enjoyment" of the literary work - because it enables the reader to see the described sorrows as well as his own in a proper perspective. Responses aroused by a piece of poetry may prove that the poem | has been able to revoke the poet's feelings and thoughts in the reader but the extent and intensity of the produced effect may vary according to the readers' esthetical education and individual responsiveness. Other tests have led to the conclusion that "traditional" poetry is not only more readily understood by the majority of readers than modern poetry with its highly intellectual contents, but it may excite stronger emotional tension in the reader. A further conclusion was that the length of time devoted to maturing the reader's response to the literary work or repeated readings leave first impressions essentially unchanged. It has been also found that prestige considerations may as well bear influence on the evaluation of literary work, thus

for instance, judgements pronounced by critics or majority opinions may carry weight just as well as the author's name. It is therefore important from the point of view of the evaluation tests whether the author's name is known or not to the testee.

HAVAS Katalin

Egy közművelődési könyvtár társadalmi környezete, beilleszkedése az infrastrukturába

The social environment of a public library: how it fits into the infrastructure

A cultural centre of 3,200 sq. m floor area is likely to be completed at the end of 1978 on a Budapest housing estate under construction for 10 years. 1,200 sq. m of the floor area will be assigned to one of the district libraries of the municipal network.

The Centre for Library Science and Methodology has been preparing an observation survey, to be carried out here, for several years. During the preparatory survey we want to learn about the inhabitants' interests and expectations related to the library. We shall survey the scope of potential readers. We shall draw the map of the cultural institutions of the district: we shall outline the network of bookshops, public and school libraries and record those people's expectations toward libraries who work at educational or "leisure-time" institutions, social or political organizations. We shall be able to keep track the coming to life of the institution from planning through the development of the stock to the opening.

During a period of 3-5 years commencing at the opening we shall observe the operation of the library organization, its system of relations, the process of reference activities and the habits in library use.

Methods: in the course of the preliminary survey we shall record interviews with persons in charge of establishing the library and with future librarians; we shall watch the development of stock. The expectations of the population will be surveyed with questionnaires. The questionnaire of a simultaneous research of read-

ing habits will be used with a control group./

After the preliminary investigation we shall draft the state of affairs according to the following aspects:

- composition, arrangement of stock; ways of acquisition,
- catalogues, services;
- efficiency of librarians, division of activities;
- registering, organization of work;
- propaganda activity, public relations;
- organization of reference activities;
- preliminary plan for cooperation with the cultural centre

Bearing in mind these aspects, we shall continue the observation, the registration and data and the preparation of case studies after the opening too. The readers' interests and expectations related to the library will be surveyed after the opening with methods used in other investigations.

We shall analyze the data on loans, the expansion of stock, public relations, and the possibilities of group activity /club, educational circle, special circles/ within the library year by year.

I.2.a
I.2.e

KUNTÁR Lajos
Könyv, könyvtár és a mai falu. = Könyvtártudományi Tanulmányok. 1971-1972. 1974. 283-318. p.

Books, library and the present-day village

Recognizing the significance of reading, the village people had begun to establish book-clubs in the second half of the last century which became widespread by the turn of the century. Meeting mainly the well-to-do people's reading and social demands, the clubs had no direct influence on the great masses of peasantry. In spite of this, the state authorities controlled and made more difficult the spread of reading. Obviously the widely read and educated people would realize the social injustices quicker and easier, the ruling class had no interest in the popular masses' self-education of their free will. Since changes in economic life as well as the general development came into conflict with the educational backwardness, the state had to utilize the driving force of reading by establishing popular /or free/ and mobile libraries, containing, however, books given and selected by state authorities.

The liberation and particularly the collectivization of agriculture completely changed the village and its life. The isolation of the village ceased by the introduction of large-scale farming. The moving masses of rural population wandered into the towns or became commuters. The country's progress, social and economic alike, permitted the organization of new cultural facilities and channels which have transformed the material and intellectual culture of the present-day village at a quick rate. Since 1952 the newly formed and modernized public libraries have not only met the readers' needs but anticipiated them, thus furthering the general development. Many industrial and agricultural workers recognize the necessity of self-education and up-to-date technology forces them to extent and refresh their knowledge and skills which will inevitably lead them to books

and reading.

The library culture of the present-day village is steadily developing year after year. This study gives an account for one period of development on the basis of investigations carried out in Nemescsó, Nagyrákos and Bükk villages in Vas County from 1968 to 1970. The information thus gathered throws light upon the role and significance of the books and libraries. The result well fits into the nation-wide situation, but it points out the lines of force and the shortcomings as well. It provides an opportunity for coming to certain conclusions and defining the tasks.

KULCSÁR Júlia
A könyv és a 10-14 éves gyermek. Felmérés a Csepel Vas- és Fémművek 444 dolgozójának családjában. Közread. a Magyar Könyvkiadók és Könyvterjesztők Egyesülése. Budapest, 1975. 101 p.

The book and 10-14 year old children. - Investigation in families of 444 workers of the Csepel Iron and Metal Works

The investigation covered 482 children of the workers of the largest Hungarian industrial enterprise. The author analysed, in the first place, the children's family conditions to discover the extent to which their belonging to different workers' strata is advantageous or disadvantageous in their cultural development. Parents are categorized by four professions:

1. Unskilled workers;
2. Skilled workers /at least one of the parents/;
3. One of the parents is a worker, the other an administrative employee;
4. Administrative employees or technical intelligentsia.

Wages, conditions of housing, reading culture of each category are described. The children's reading activity is approached from several sides within the complexity of their cultural activities. Data are differentiated partly by the parents' category and partly by boys and girls, age groups of 10-11 and 12-14, good pupils and mediocre or bad pupils. The most important findings are given below:

1. The place of education in the hierarchy of favourite activities and in leisure time. -
Out of the activities, specified in the questionnaire, 91 per cent of the children qualified the watching of television, 76 per cent reading, 65 per cent movies,

64 per cent playing in open air as their favourite activity. 50 per cent is fond of drawing, 26 per cent of theatre, and 22 per cent of museums. However, among the "particularly popular" activities, reading takes the first place; in higher classes the role of reading as compared to television increases.

2. Readers' interests.-

26 per cent reads monthly at least three, 30 per cent two books and 23 per cent one book. The frequency of their reading correlates, first of all, with their parents' reading habits and not with their educational level or profession. - The children's favourite books are "adventurous and exciting" ones and Indian stories; among the children who read the most, historical novels and science-fiction are also popular. As a matter of course, they read, for the most part, the classical Hungarian juvenile books, compulsory books at school, but Karl May's one work is in the eighth place in the frequency list; among boys Robinson Crusoe and the Book of the Jungle are still popular; girls prefer Erich Kästner's "Two Lottis". In the first place of the most popular books is a historical novel, which is also compulsory reading at school, Géza Gárdonyi's The Stars of Eger, but here, beside the Boys from the Ground /by Ferenc Molnár/, János Vitéz /Petőfi/, Karl May's book and Cooper's novel are among the first five favourite books. Verne's popularity as compared to earlier investigations decreased considerably. The girls' reading interests are of a wider range than those of the boys, poems are in preference. Boys are more interested in science fiction; the most popular topic is the life of animals /e. g. Joy Adamson's books/ and history.

3. Sources of book acquisition

62 per cent of the children requests assistance in selecting a piece of reading, mostly from their parents and friends; the teacher's and the librarian's role is surprisingly little. The origin of the book read for the last time: 30 per cent: received as a gift; 28 per cent borrowed it from the library; 18 per cent selected it out of the parents' books; 14 per cent borrowed it from friends; 5 per cent purchased it, etc. 47 per cent of the children go to the public libraries, 18 per cent

only to the school library; the latter plays an important role, mainly in the life of children with culturally backward families. - One child possesses 32 books on the average.

4. Some other cultural activities. -

The majority of children watches television for 12 to 18 hours a week and goes to the cinema once or twice a month. 29 per cent had been more than twice to the theatre, 21 per cent never went to see a play. 32 per cent were more than twice in museums, but 15 per cent never went there.

MÁNDI Péter
A könyv és közönsége. Közgazdasági és Jogi Könyvkiadó. Bp. 1968. 296 p.

A book and its reading public

The book summarizes the important events of the research of reading in Hungary. By far the most significant of these is the extensive survey carried out by the Information Centre of the Book Publishers and Distributors /conducted by Péter Mándi/ in 1964. The sample of nearly 2,300 persons, questioned personally, represents the adult population /over 15 years of age/ in Hungary. The basic objective of the investigation was to draft the "reading map" of Hungary. The book gives significant data on the reading ratio of particular social strata, reading frequency, the "operation" of social factors influencing reading, the distribution of reading material according to genres, book acquiring habits and family libraries.

The data of the survey display that 80 per cent of the adult population in Hungary read daily papers and 60 per cent read books /more than one a year/. 60 per cent read daily papers regularly and 25 per cent were regular readers of books /one month a book at least/. Half of the non-readers of books were aged and the level of their education was low, one fifth of these, however, with six grades of school, belong to this category as well.

The 1964 survey throws light on the strong interest in fiction in the reading public in Hungary. /80 per cent of the latest readings were fiction, an additional 10 per cent juvenile/. Old /classical/ literature was dominant within fiction.

According to the findings of the examination, half of the Hungarian families bought books yearly /excluding textbooks/. 70 per cent of the families had books at home, but 20 per cent had only a few books. As a matter of course, both intensive book purchase and larger home

libraries characterize frequent reading and more educated families. The chance for an increase in library membership arose with the enhanced intensity of book purchase/except for an intellectual stratum that bought books very often/ - thus book purchase and library use were complementary to, instead of substituting, each other.

The publication compares the findings of the research with the experience gained in another /nation-wide or partial/ investigation, being at the same time complementary to them.

MIKLÓS Pál

Olvasás és értelem. Budapest, Szépirodalmi Kiadó, 1971. 244 p.

Reading and intelligence

Analysing contemporary written and oral manifestations, Pál Miklós comes to the conclusion that there is something wrong with reading. The introductory article of the volume of essays designed to serve the art of reading, entitled "The social position and meaning of reading today" sounds the alarm and calls to arms. The author'expresses his concern about television, speaks of the holy secret of the script warmly and respectfully, worries about the non-growing circle of readers, the inadequate reading culture of "professional" and "amateur" readers,the "socialist trashy novel", the bestseller that stems the acceptance of originality.

The flood of written words and the spreach of mechanical mass communication media mark our era. Mass culture strives after the average, popularizes the mediocre conservative standards of taste, condenses valuable works into digests and brings out values mixed up with

mass products of inferior quality. All this results in a passive world outlook, wastes the intellectual efforts and leads to social and political opportunism. Pál Miklós, as judge in the case, cites the defenders of mass culture, too, in answer to these serious accusations. Mass culture, which hitherto has been characterized by its drawbacks only, spreads culture among the popular masses on an unprecedented scale; helps eliminate caste distinctions; paperbacks and telecasts of theatrical performances /based on adequate cultural-political conception/ can make the highest cultural values available to the members of widely different castes, and finally, information in large quantity itself is of great value.

In the case of mass culture the defence seems to deploy unequal forces. Still the judgement is just: "...the structure of our whole culture must be changed so that the new element bringing about a change might occupy a worthy position in it, still the traditional value should not face a crisis... One possibility for compensation may be found in the preservation and development of the culture of reading."

In Pál Miklós's opinion the actual social position of

reading is mainly due to the fact that precise, shaded, flexible and manageable thoughts are still tied to the use of written records today, and that reading and intelligence are still synonyms. The ever more complex world cannot be understood at first hearing or sight. Unfortunately, Pál Miklós fails to add that in describing our modern-day world illustrations in increasing number and types are also needed to complement the written text. Also, the statement that "only thought recorded in a reliable way - i. e. in the form of text - may be criticized" ought to have been made more tinged.

His program, in contrast, with prophecies inspired by McLuhan's theory, is completely acceptable: the culture of reading must me made a more and more democratic right. This is the task of schools and criticism. These two institutions must cooperate closely, since a critic is nothing but a reader and educator, and schools should not bring up youth to be literary "know-alls" but readers.

In Pál Miklós's opinion, reading has sociological and literary-historical and, ultimately, historical implica-

tions. This implies full and systematic knowledge of facts, as well as mathematical, stylistic, logical and psychological analysis. Only the latter ones may be taught since only they have their laws, history and sociology have mere regularities. Consequently, both in literary studies and in education the stress must be laid upon the work of art and the textual analysis.

Mit olvasunk? 4000 háztartás könyvolvasási adatai. Központi Statisztikai Hivatal. Bp. 1965, 104 p.
/Statisztikai időszaki közlemények. 69.kötet/

What do we read? Data on book reading in 4,000 households

The representative statistical survey of the Central Statistical Office of the education of the nation was the first to give a picture of book reading in Hungary. The investigation carried out in 1962 covered some 12,000 members /over the age of 8/ in 4,000 households. The investigators questioned the family members monthly in 3 months /not subsequent/ of the year about how many books they had read in the previous month, by whom, and where they had acquired their readings.

During the three months 38 per cent of those questioned read at least one book. /One cannot conclude, however, that 38 per cent of the population of Hungary is book reader since a period of three months does not suffice to establish the fact of book reading. Another nation-wide survey defining the limit between reading and non-reading in at least one/book/year claimed that 60 per cent of the adult population was book reader.

37 per cent of the readers read books during the three months of the survey - they were considered regular readers by the persons making the survey.

Examining the determinants of reading, schooling has been found most influential.

Books were found in two thirds of the households under survey.

Popularity lists of the frequently read authors, broken down into social strata, are enclosed in the publication. Based on the data of this survey and on other contemporary findings, it can be contended that in the first half of the 1960s Hungarian readers /a portion of the intellectuals as well/ were oriented towards old, classical literature.

The publication is supplemented by ample tables representative of the extensive survey.

I.2.e
I.3.c

H. SAS Judit

Emberek és könyvek. Bp. 1968.
Akadémiai Kiadó. 213 p.
/Szociológiai tanulmányok. 6./

People and books

Judit H. Sas set about to examine the relationship between the population of three villages in Northern Hungary and literature in the light of demand and effect.

Her presuppositions comprise the following questions: Is it justified to separate characteristic literary expectations of different villages and different social strata? What is the specific feature of the relationship between expectation and the effect of a work? Can we define types of readers from a sociological viewpoint? Does the effect of a book equal to what its reader is able or willing to relate? Besides questionnaires and interviews, the author was the first to use text analysis as a method of investigation.

The author made an attempt to classify the expectations and the effect of the works, thus she differentiates the demands for "entertainment, recreation and escape", the wish for "self-identification", the interest in "the possibility to achieve human happiness", the search for "encyclopaedic knowledge", the interest in "social and political issues", the wish to "realize the state of one's own social stratum", the attempt to learn "ethical values" and the claim for "aesthetic form, harmony".

The examination has revealed that the types of demand and effect are determined and significantly differ from one another. Village readers are not consciously searching for the solution of those issues that, however, become incorporated in their personality in the form of personal experience. The only exception is the sphere of "self-identification" where demand and effect are equally strong. Conceptualized demands deepen and concentrate the effect. The process of comprehension reflects the world view, the ethics, the education, the way of life and the habits of the individual, the stra-

tum, the class. Consequently, a certain work has different roles in different ages and social strata.

The operation of the various mechanisms of demand and effect is subject to schooling, the position taken in the social division of labour. The lower the position assigned in the social hierarchy, the more enhanced the motif of "entertainment, search for happiness".

Extrovertedness, the informative, ethical, social, political effect of literature characterize primarily male village readers of higher qualification, schooling and profession.

Judit H. Sas emphasizes the importance of examining the non-institutional, verbal forms of spreading literature. Various communities share their reading experience in accordance with the rules of a novel folklore. Half of the families talk about the books they had read more or less regularly. Reading being regular, accidental or rejected, indicates a close connection with schooling or the nature of the settlement. The more industrial a village, the more regular readers it has; the more archaic or isolated it is, the greater the rejection.

The changing way of life entails books in homes. The tradition of printed literary culture is very young in rural communities. As an impact of social change and social mobility, however, reading culture increases at a high speed.

Evidence has verified that the majority of the questioned persons put up with the fact that they and their households are linked to books, but in the case of their children they have far-reaching plans regarding books at least as a symbol of the rise in social status.

SASVÁRI Ilona: Survey of the distribution of places of employment of engineer and technician readers in the Hungarian Central Technical Library and Documentation Centre.
= Reading research in the socialist countries. Abridged papers and minutes of a conference. Budapest, 15-18, October 1974. Ed. by National Széchényi Library Centre for Library Science and Methodology, Budapest, 1975. 58-64. p.

The investigation was conducted to establish indexes the basis of library data through which the relationnip between technical library work and production as well as national economy could be demonstrated.

First of all, the number of engineer readers in the Hungarian Central Technical Library and Documentation Centre was surveyed. The number of engineer readers is an important factor from the point of view of special information which again is connected with the indexes of production in the respective branches. Three aspects were taken into consideration:

a/ The contemporary industrial structure of Hungary;

b/ The trend of the development in the branches of industry;

c/ The number of specialists with higher technical education.

It is proved that a close connection exists between technical development and intellectual creative work related to technics.

The survey carried out the following analytical tasks:

1./ The number of specialists enrolled in the Hungarian Central Technical Library and Documentation Centre was compared with the number of engineers working in industry and with the production indexes.

2. The bookstock and the number of readers of factory libraries were compared with the number of engineers employed at the same place.

3. The number of readers working at research and planning institutes was checked with the number of employees at the industrial research institutions and with the expenditures on research.

4. Finally, it was examined how many readers of the

Library worked in individual firms or branches of industry.

There is an interesting coincidence between the number of engineer readers and the data of technicians and production indexes. Consequently, precision engineering, telecommunication and electromechanical engineering are in the first place. Chemical industry ranks second, this proves the high level of Hungarian chemical industry and within it that of pharmaceutical industry. The number of engineer readers employed in food and light industry is very low, only the textile industry makes an exception.

The number of volumes and readers in firm libraries were surveyed too. Here chemical industry ranks first; the same trend is observable in respect of bookstock, where, with 1800 volumes for 100 technicians, chemical industry is in the first place and light industry stands at the end with only 225 volumes. A separate investigation revealed the proportion of borrowers who worked at research and planning institutions. The industrial research institutions form a separate group. The number of borrowers amounts to 16 per cent of all

borrowers enrolled in the Hungarian Central Technical Library and Documentation Centre. These figures demonstrate that the Library takes its share in research and development work of Hungary.

Finally, the distribution of specialists of technical university education was examined. Their total number in 1970 was 60,800. About the half of the active technicians of university education works in Budapest.

In 1970, about 170,000 readers enrolled in the Library. Out of them 43.5 per cent had university and secondary technical education.

The survey has duly emphasized that library use is an essential condition of effective engineering work. It has also proved that library has an immediate "financial" effect on production.

SZENTIRMAI László

Aspects in the selection of literary works among university students. Budapest, 1972. 11 p.

Paper presented to the 38th IFLA General Council Meeting held in Budapest from August 26 to September 2, 1972.

Due to the fact that the intermediate part of culture of the intellectuals and its significance are going to increase in the future, it is important to be aware of what fiction the university students of today read. 1,258 students /90 per cent/ attending the József Attila University in Szeged, returned the postal questionnaires and replied to the researcher's questions. The investigation wanted, in the first place, to get acquainted with the motives of reading fiction. It came to light, among other things, that students obtain the major share of their readings from the library.

It was examined, how much time students spend for reading works which are directly connected to their studies and how much time is spent on reading of other fiction.

Time spent on reading

Table 1.

/Expressed in per cent:

N = 1258/

Time spent on reading/week	Belletristic and popular scientific works	Compulsory reading, special books
More than 12 hours	11	15
Between 6-12 hours	26	26
Between 1- 6 hours	41	36
Does not read regularly	22	23
	100	100

Investigating the reading motives, it was proved that acquiring knowledge and improvement of erudition are the strongest reasons /a+d/; at the same time, it emerged that female students are searching and selecting more deliberately and systematically.

Table 2.

According to what judgement do students select their belletristic readings

/Several answers can be given/

Expressed in per cent:

N = 1258

Motive	Yes	Men	Women
a/ Are you considering your knowledge insufficient if you do not read certain authors?	41	34	45
b/ Do you read the book because in your company they were talking of it?	20	16	22
c/ Are you selecting it haphazardly as you want to enjoy yourself?	27	33	24

/to be cont.d/

/Continuation/

Motive	Yes	Men	Women
d/ Do you consider fiction as part of your self-education?	57	50	62
e/ Don't you have time time read fiction regularly?	23	26	21
f/ Don't you consider it necessary to read regularly?	45	44	45

Reference to lack of time - as in other investigations too - rather concealed than revealed the truth, i. e. the lack of motives.

Further analysis discovers the hidden coherence of reading habits; reading fiction is influenced mostly by the character of profession /61 per cent of arts students - reading works of such subject - want to improve their knowledge, only 31 per cent of students, attending the university of natural sciences, are of the same opinion/, and by the time factor /students of the higher grades spend less time with reading fiction than do students in the lower grades, and what is more, approaching the end of the university period, readi

aiming at acquiring knowledge decreases, while haphazard selection increases/.

One of the most important data draws the attention to the long lasting consequences due to some students' handicap. Strong differences appear, among students coming from various social strata, or from reading or not reading families, concerning the frequency of reading, motives in the selection of lectures, in short, related to reading habits.

It is necessary to care, among university students, for the cultural consequences of disadvantageous situation - connected with the system of social division of labour - and for the elimination of these consequences.

SZENTIRMAI László

Reading habits of university students as revealed by a one-week time budget survey. = Reading research in socialist countries. Abridged papers and minutes of a conference. Budapest, October 15-18, 1974. Ed. by the National Széchényi Library, Centre for Library Science and Methodology. Budapest, 1975. 65-73. p.

In April, 1973, an investigation was carried out among the students of the University of Szeged. Diaries of activities were filled out by more than three hundred students. The objective of the investigation was to examine the content of the way of life of students with the help of the structure of activities, above all work and leisure activities, with special regard to reading. The activities were divided into 7 broad groups and 65 kinds of activities.

One of the suppositions was that students were not equipped with textbooks and lecture notes. Therefore they went to libraries to obtain their work tools.

Nearly half of the students arrived to the university from small towns and the drawbacks caused by the settlement structure were found out.

It became obvious that the reading of not compulsory literature takes on the average 4.66 hours a week and within the leisure time this is the second most time-consuming pastime.

Voluntary reading takes averagely one hour a week in the mornings and 3.68 hours in the afternoons. The investigation proved that students read more on weekends and Sundays than weekdays.

Examining the reading during working time, the time budget had to be divided into two groups:

1. working time restricted to university /attendance, etc./
2. work that can be done at home.

The working phases at home increase in correlation with the years. More hours are spent on required and technical reading.

The visits of students to libraries of the faculties to make notes on required reading were also surveyed. During the week under survey arts students visited the University Library most frequently.

The students were interviewed whether they found it necessary to visit the university library regularly. The reply was positive, the majority of students find it absolutely necessary to visit the library for studying, self-education and also entertainment.

The students were asked what they would do if they had three hours of leisure time unexpectedly. Nearly 50 per cent of them answered that they would read.

The survey proved that the students of higher education belong entirely to the category of readers. It is interesting to find out that women read more than men. Students in the first year read less and with the advance of years, the number of hours devoted to reading increases. The University Library helps students with professional literature and it is what the students read in the reading room.

Reading is a leisure activity that is carried out regularly by every student with more or less frequency and for different periods. Regularity means reading at least one book a month. The University Library plays an essential role in the structure of activities of university students' way of life.

TÓTH Dezső
Kulturális változások Dákán.
Kiad. a Veszprém megyei Tanács
VB Művelődésügyi Osztálya. Szerk.
Varga Béla. Veszprém, 1977.
108 p.

Cultural changes at Dáka, a small village in Hungary

In 1964, the Centre for Library Science and Methodology investigated the connection between villagers and books. /Jenő Ughy: 1000 villagers and the book. Budapest, 1965. Centre for Library Science and Methodology./ One of the scenes of the cultural-sociological investigations was the small village of Dáka with 800 inhabitants. On the expiration of 10 years, the investigation was repeated, using Ughy's questionnaire. The investigation covered 200 persons in 1964 and 1974 alike, i.e. half of the inhabitants over 14. Four fifths of the families investigated in 1974 was identical with those covered by the first investigation.

The purpose of the investigation was to size up the effect of cultural changes and social-economic development. During the 10 years between the two investigations the proportion of those employed in industry had doubled, the monthly incomes had increased considerably, the housing conditions had improved to a great extent, and the mechanization of households had developed by leaps and bounds. The considerable increase in living standards was not followed by a similar improvement of the cultural level.

In spite of the expressively favourable tendency, perceptible both in the development of school attendance and the spreading of mass media, neither the amount spent on book purchase nor the proportion of library membership and readers had increased. The social prestige of reading pieces - in the first place as regards their aesthetical value - had developed unfavourably.

The author explains this symptom, saying that the change in the living standards had not been followed by

a change in the habit of life and the quality of life, that money-making stands first among the objectives of life, that rivalry presenting itself in acquisitiveness had become stronger, that the deliberate demand for erudition is omitted from the system of values. According to the author, the following circumstances play a rcle in the unfavourable development of cultural conditions: the cultural institutions in villages do not perform their mission; cultural communities do not exist and | even communities based on family and kinship connections are also declining.

UGHY Jenő
Ezer falusi lakos és a könyv. Bp. 1965,
OSzK-KMK. 119 p.

A thousand village inhabitants and books

In the mid-1960s, with the overall views established, the attention of the research of reading in Hungary focused on particular strata of readers. The author, on the staff of the Centre for Library Science and Methodology, studied the inhabitants of five villages of different types. The extensive phenomena of passivity and seclusion seem to be the greatest hindrance to the education of the rural population. Rural opinion, however, altered during the last 10-15 years; reading has been considered a despised and shameful pastime but in 1964 it was referred to - timidly though - as something positive. 34 per cent of the questioned persons claimed reading to be their favourite pastime, 64 per cent considered it useful.

Those who favour high exposure to radio and television and low to reading read more than those spending their leisure time in passive recreation or around-the-house activities. Reading is linked to the use of other educational facilities. Different forms of cultural activity go together.

Reading in most cases had not became an inner demand yet - almost half of the questioned were unable to name a book with special interest to them.

Books were found in 62 per cent of the families but in the majority of cases they are only status symbols. This fact, however, is to be considered positive because a decorative book - though unread for a time - exerts immense socio-cultural attraction.

Book purchase is low in villages, thus libraries have increased significance. 29 per cent of the questioned are active library users. It is mostly the young people

who make use of this facility. Some subtle partial findings of the investigation effectively contributed to the research of library use habits. Valuable information has been accumulated on the motivation for enrolling in a library, the expectations toward a library, on the causes of dropping out and the ways of book selection.

Considerations of the attraction to special types of readings cleared up some false views as well, namely the assumption that elderly peasant readers favour mostly fairy tales. Reading special and informative literature is more frequent than expected but hardly among young readers.

Peasant readers with an interest in fiction turn to agricultural literature more often than workers to technical books. Contemporary literature attracts the interest of the young, but more elderly people read it than middle-aged.

The data and the conclusions presented directly applicable information and methodological aid to librarians. Research of reading in Hungary is going to repeat the investigation and compare it with other current data in the near future.

I.2.e
I.3.b

VERSEGHY György

A társadalomtudományi irodalom kérdései a közművelődési könyvtárakban. = Könyvtári Figyelő. 17. évf. 1971. 3. sz. 209-224. p., 1972. 18. évf. 1. sz. 87-89. p.

Problems of social science literature in public libraries

The Ministry of Culture took samples in public libraries and investigated, in two steps, the circulation of social science literature.

In April, 1968, the circulation of literature in the fields of philosophy, psychology, pedagogy, sociology, economics, and history was investigated in 35 public libraries /county, district-city, metropolitan city, borough and provincial trade union libraries/. The stock in these libraries consisted of altogether 867,000 volumes; out of these the literature of the respective special fields amounted to 142,000 volumes. Within one month 7,228 /11.5 per cent/ of the 66,000 registered readers borrowed 13,175 books relevant to the above special fields. 65 books were borrowed on more than 30 occasions /24 historical works and 18 of law/. Three publications are heading the list with crime and spy stories, respectively; among the most requested books there are generally few works of scientific value. Tables illustrate the popularity of literature - from certain special fields - among readers of different age, profession, educational level, and sex.

In April, 1969, the circulation of literature was investigated in the following subjects: linguistics, art, recreation, sport, science of literature, country knowledge, geography, travel reports. This time, the investigation was conducted only in five libraries of different type. 2,133 /17.7 per cent/ out of 12,000 reader borrowed works falling under the above categories, 47 works were borrowed on more than ten occasions; the most popular works were: "The history of Hungarian literature", vols. 1-3. and Gy. Illés's monograph dealing with the life of the famous Hungarian poet Sándor Petőfi. The other works with frequent circulation were travel book Most often borrowed books of these special fields were of higher scientific value. The data of that investigation were summed up in tables too.